

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-10, and add the following new claims:

--11. A process for producing a thin slab having broad faces with a predetermined convexity in a continuous casting installation, in which an immersion nozzle protrudes into a mold composed of broad and narrow faces followed by a strand guiding means for guiding the slab which comprises a strand shell surrounding a liquid sump, said process comprising the steps of:

a) forming broad faces of the strand shell to have planar surfaces in a region of the immersion nozzle which is shaped in the form of a spade, and simultaneously be parallel with respect to their contour lines;

b) outside a shadow region of the immersion nozzle, shaping said broad faces of the strand shell with planar surfaces that taper conically toward the narrow faces;

c) in a strand casting direction, feeding parts of the slab broad faces shaped with planar surfaces conically to each other up to a longitudinal extent of the mold of from 40 to 60 % to such a degree that lateral edges of the faces adapt themselves to ends of the planar parts of the slab broad faces tapering conically with respect to narrow faces of the slab;

d) joining wedge-shaped connecting pieces with the surface-like central parts of the slab broad faces with respective planar-surface edge parts of the slab broad faces; and

e) subsequently, in a mouth region and after leaving the mold, maintaining convexity formed by in each case three planar surface parts of the broad faces of the strand shell constant in its form as far as a lowest point of a liquid crater of the slab.

12. A process as defined in claim 11, including reducing slab thickness in a region of a strand guiding framework by only deforming the slab narrow faces.

13. A process as defined in claim 11, wherein the wedge-shaped connecting pieces between the planar slab central part, located in the shadow region of the immersion nozzle, and the slab broad-face parts tapering conically toward the narrow faces are given a form which encloses an angle  $\alpha < 5^\circ$  in a longitudinal extent of the slab central parts and represents a crowned surface which, having a central point of inflection, adjoins tangentially at its edges to two neighboring surfaces.

14. A continuous casting installation for producing a thin slab, comprising:  
a laterally adjustable mold, the mold having broad side parts, narrow side parts, a large crowned cross-section on a charging side and a cross-section, opposite the crowned cross-section, on an strand outler side which is smaller than the crowned cross-section and identically crowned in a central region;

an immersion nozzle that protrudes into the mold the immersion nozzle having a spade-shaped mouth with a maximum thickness (d) corresponding to  $d = 0.3$  to  $0.5 \times D_F$ , where  $D_F$  is a distance between the mold broad face parts in the charging region, the broad-face parts having at least in a shadow region of the immersion nozzle central parts which are arranged parallel to one another according to their contour lines, the broad-face parts being formed, at least in an adjusting region of the narrow-face parts, as planar side surfaces, the planar side surfaces being movably arranged so that they move conically toward each other in a direction of the narrow face parts, the planar-surface central part being connected to the planar-surface side surfaces by transitional parts, the transitional parts tapering toward each other in a wedge form having a wedge tip that ends at a distance (a), measured from an upper edge of the mold, with  $a = 0.5$  to  $0.8 \times L$ , where  $L$  = the length of the mold; and

pairs of supporting and guiding rollers which follow the mold and have a caliber adapted to an emerging crowned strand, the supporting and guiding rollers having a contour which corresponds to the planar-surface central plate and the planar side plates of the mold broad faces in a region of the mouth of the mold.

15. A continuous casting installation as defined in claim 14, wherein the central parts are planar surfaces which move conically toward each other in a strand conveying direction at an angle  $\alpha$ , where  $\alpha = 5$  to  $10^\circ$  with  $\alpha = 0.5$  to  $0.8 \times L$ .

16. A continuous casting installation as defined in claim 14, wherein the central parts are shaped with planar surfaces in the shadow region of the immersion nozzle up to  $a = 0.5$  to  $0.8 \times L$  and are arranged so as to be disposed parallel to one another, the mold further having connecting parts with contour lines, the connecting parts being parallel with respect to their contour lines and having in the strand conveying direction an S-shaped form with ends that respectively go over tangentially into a preceding and following part of the central part, the transitional parts being adapted to the connecting part in their longitudinal extent up to the wedge tip.

17. A continuous casting installation as defined in claim 14, wherein the transitional parts are shaped as a crowned surface, the crowned surface tangentially adjoining at one end a respective slab side part and at the other end the slab central part and having a central point of inflection.

18. A continuous casting installation as defined in claim 14, wherein the supporting and guiding rollers are split rollers having bearings provided in a region of the planar-surface central part.

19. A continuous casting installation as defined in claim 14, and further comprising rollers which are designed cylindrically in a central region and conically in side regions, with a diameter which enlarges outwardly so as to correspond to shaping of the slab.